

# The Pulse

## Welcome to Paper Meets LIVE! 2025



Heidi Brock  
President and CEO,  
AF&PA



Mark Swets  
Executive Vice President,  
NPTA

On behalf of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) and the National Paper Trade Association (NPTA), it's our pleasure to welcome you to Paper Meets LIVE! 2025 — the premier networking event for our industry.

We're thrilled to build on the momentum of this first-in-class event with key program updates and an exciting announcement about Paper Meets LIVE! 2026.

### Important Reminder

This is an exclusive event. All attendees must be registered. Please wear your event badge at all times. Credentials are required for entry to all Paper Meets LIVE! 2025 activities, including customer/supplier appointments.

### Event Highlights

*New Day! Tuesday Luncheon & Keynote (sponsored by Sylvamo).* Join us as we

celebrate the leadership and achievements of Paul Biesiadecki, Vice President, Sales, Paper & Packaging, Mativ — recipient of the 2025 Stanley O. Styles Industry Excellence Award. Our keynote speaker, Alex Chausovsky, Director, Analytics & Consulting, Bundy Group, will deliver a dynamic economic and policy update: "What to Expect for the Remainder of This Year & Beyond."

*Wednesday Networking & Happy Hour (sponsored by Metsä).* Wednesday is all about connections: All-day networking appointments and Networking Happy Hour at 6 p.m. on the Event Lawn (next to the outdoor pool). Relax, reconnect and grow your business network.

*Thursday Wrap-Up & NPTA Emerging Leaders Workshop.* We'll close the event with: Final networking appointment block; NPTA Emerging Leaders Workshop featuring Andrew Snyder, COO, Clampitt Paper Company, Todd Kniceley, Sales Director, Metsä Americas, and Paul Biesiadecki, 2025 Stanley O. Styles Award Recipient. Gain valuable insights from professionals who have successfully advanced through NPTA's Emerging Leaders Program.

### Looking Ahead: Paper Meets LIVE! 2026

We're excited to announce that Paper Meets

LIVE! 2026 will return to the Opal Sands Resort with new spring dates: May 12–14, 2026. This timing reduces the risk of hurricane season disruptions and avoids conflicts with the busy fall industry calendar. Registration will open in December.

### Thank You

Thank you for committing your time and resources to be here. Paper Meets LIVE! thrives on the face-to-face connections and partnerships built here. We look forward to a collaborative event that delivers high value through meaningful business relationships. Enjoy Paper Meets LIVE! 2025 — the "must-attend" event of the year.

### AF&PA and NPTA Welcome New Members

As a reminder, Paper Meets LIVE! suite and meeting room hosts are exclusive to AF&PA and NPTA member companies. This year, we're pleased to welcome new companies to our associations.

AF&PA Welcomes: K.T.G. (USA) Inc., and Crown Paper Group.

NPTA Welcomes: Cauthorne Paper Company, Keypoint Intelligence, Service Transportation, Inc., and Spinnaker – A Mactac Company.

## The State of Paper Advocacy: A Complex, Evolving Economic and Political Landscape

By Terry Webber, Vice President of Industry Affairs, AF&PA



This past year, the paper industry has faced a rapidly evolving political and economic climate. From the patch work nature of state Extended

Producer Responsibility (EPR) proposals to uncertain global trade dynamics and radical shifts in federal policies and regulations, the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) continues to remain nimble as the leading advocate for the industry.

**In 2025, we're focusing our advocacy efforts on policies and regulations that promote and enable us to create the jobs our industry supports and the products we make.**

In 2025, we're focusing our advocacy efforts on policies and regulations that promote and enable us to create the jobs our industry supports and the products we make. This includes showcasing the U.S. forest products

industry as one of the largest manufacturing industries in America, employing over 925,000 American workers in good-paying jobs — many in rural communities — and manufacturing more than \$435 billion in essential products used every day.

A good portion of those products — nearly 39% of U.S.- produced communication paper, representing about \$6.5 billion of paper products produced — is delivered

(continued on page 4)



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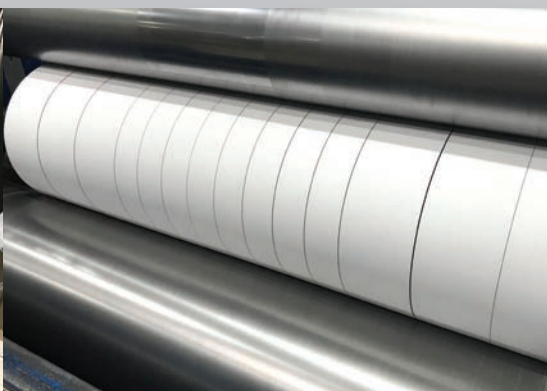


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# Paper Meets **LIVE!** 2025

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**NOTE:** All participants must be registered and badges are required for entry to all suite/meeting room appointments and program events.

**Registration Desk Hours & Location**  
*Location: Opal Ballroom Foyer (2nd Floor)*

**Hours:**  
*Monday 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 – 4:30 p.m.*  
*Tuesday 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 2:30 – 6 p.m.*  
*Wednesday 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 – 6 p.m.*  
*Thursday 7 – 8:30 a.m.*

**General Hours & Locations for Customer/Supplier Appointments**  
*Locations: Consult the Suite/Meeting Room Hosts Directory in your registration packet for a complete list of hosts and their locations. All company hosted meeting rooms are on the 2nd floor of the Opal Sands Resort.*

**Hours:**  
*Tuesday 7 – 11:45 a.m. and 2 – 6 p.m.*  
*Wednesday 8 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.*  
*Thursday 7 – 10:30 a.m.*

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

4 – 6 p.m. **Suite/Meeting Room Hosts Check-in**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

6 – 10 a.m. **Morning Coffee Break** *Sponsored by American Kraft Paper*  
*Location: Opal Ballroom Foyer, 2nd Floor*

7 – 11:45 a.m. **Customer/Supplier Appointments\***  
*Locations: See Suite/Meeting Room Hosts Directory*

12 – 2 p.m. **Luncheon** *(suites closed) Sponsored by Sylvamo*  
*Location: Opal Ballroom, 2nd Floor*

**NPTA Stanley O. Styles Industry Excellence Award**  
Presented to **Paul Biesiadecki**, Vice President, Sales, Paper & Packaging, Mativ

**Keynote: Economic & Policy Update – What to Expect for the Remainder of This Year & Beyond**  
Speaker: **Alex Chausovsky**, Director, Analysis & Consulting, Bundy Group

2 – 6 p.m. **Customer/Supplier Appointments\***  
*Locations: See Suite/Meeting Room Hosts Directory*

3 – 5 p.m. **AF&PA Printing-Writing Sector Meeting** *(Sector members only)*  
*Location: Aqua Boardroom, 2nd Floor*

6 – 7 p.m. **Tuesday Evening Reception** *(suites closed)*  
*Sponsored by Boise Paper*  
*Location: Event Lawn, next to outdoor pool deck*

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

6 – 10 a.m. **Morning Coffee Break** *Sponsored by American Kraft Paper*  
*Location: Opal Ballroom Foyer, 2nd Floor*

8 a.m. – 6 p.m. **Customer/Supplier Appointments\***  
*Locations: See Suite/Meeting Room Hosts Directory*

6 – 7 p.m. **Networking Happy Hour** *Sponsored by Metsä*  
*Location: Event Lawn, next to outdoor pool deck*

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

6 – 10 a.m. **Morning Coffee Break** *(Sponsored by American Kraft Paper)*  
*Location: Opal Ballroom Foyer, 2nd Floor*

7 – 10:30 a.m. **Customer/Supplier Appointments\***  
*Locations: See Suite/Meeting Room Hosts Directory*

8 – 10 a.m. **NPTA Emerging Leaders Workshop** *(NPTA Emerging Leaders only)*  
*Location: Sand Dollar*  
*Presenters: Andrew Snyder, COO, Clampitt Paper Company;*  
*Todd Kniceley, Sales Director, Metsä Board Americas and*  
*Paul Biesiadecki, Vice President, Sales, Paper & Packaging, Mativ*

11 a.m. Hotel Check-out

**\*Customer/Supplier Appointments:**  
Suite/meeting room locations are listed in the Suite/Meeting Room Hosts Directory. Access to individually hosted suite/meeting rooms is by appointment only. Contact each host company to make appointments.

*(continued from page 1)*

through the United States Postal Service (USPS). Yet mail volume is under threat by a string of seven price hikes to the price of stamps since 2021, and a failing Delivering for America Plan.

With new Postmaster General David Steiner at the helm, AF&PA and our postal allies are seizing upon this change in leadership to advocate for greater transparency, collaboration, and accountability to support mail customers and the mail value chain — like paper — that depend on the affordable, efficient delivery of mail and packages.

At the state level, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, which require brands and manufacturers to pay for the end-of-life costs of products that they produce, continue to gain momentum in legislatures across the country.

As a result, our advocacy efforts are increasingly focused on the implementation phase of EPR, including working with Producer Responsibility Organizations (PRO) to make sure paper products are not disadvantaged compared with other materials. We are working to ensure that the definition of “paper products” in legislation does not include intermediary products that don’t end up in recycling bins. AF&PA also advocates for “off-ramps” for highly recycled materials like paper and paper packaging products that should be exempt from EPR fees.

Globally, the European Union Deforestation-Free Products Regulation (EUDR) was passed by the EU to curb deforestation connected to the import or export of certain commodities. However, the current regulation places an unfair burden on U.S. forest products producers,

even though our industry does not contribute to global deforestation.

AF&PA was successful in having EUDR listed as a non-tariff trade barrier as part of U.S. trade policy. We are working closely with U.S. government trade negotiators for regulatory changes that would recognize the U.S. as a negligible deforestation risk.

There are many ways that you can help AF&PA support our advocacy efforts to establish a unified voice across our industry:

- **Amplify Our Industry’s Work:** Share social media post or author an opinion piece to elevate important paper industry issues.
- **Showcase Innovations:** Offer facility tours to key stakeholders like elected representatives or media to highlight industry innovations.
- **Contact Your Legislators:** Write a letter or an email to your local and federal elected officials around key issues.

If you’re looking for more ways to stay informed, sign up for our weekly newsletter “AF&PA Delivered” on our website: [www.afandpa.org](http://www.afandpa.org).

You can also stay connected by following us on social media, including X (@forestandpaper) and Instagram (@afandpa).

And remember, just as AF&PA is a voice and advocate for you, your voice is just as critical so that we can continue to deliver printing and writing products that serve as the foundation of our communities.

## Streco Fibres Continues Sustainable Growth in a Changing World

In its 35th year of successful operation, Streco Fibres continues to expand its footprint both domestically and internationally, while its commitment to being a trusted partner to mills and customers remains stronger than ever.

Streco’s Founder and President, John Strelitz, says growth is not just a number, it is a mindset.

“Over the past year, Streco has seen significant growth in both domestic and international sales, navigating complex tariff landscapes and diversifying our sourcing strategies,” Strelitz points out. “By identifying new suppliers across the globe, we’ve strengthened our supply chain resilience and ensured consistent quality and availability for our partners. Whether we are helping mills meet their production demands or finding optimal sourcing for our

customers, Streco is there — investing in long-term relationships and shared success.”

Strelitz emphasizes that his company’s role goes beyond supply.

“We offer tailored financing solutions, strategic warehousing, and logistical support, giving our customers access to a broad network of suppliers and flexibility to grow. We believe in being more than a vendor — we’re a strategic ally, constantly investing in our financial strength and industry expertise to better serve our partners,” he adds.

Looking ahead, Streco Fibres remains committed to innovation, collaboration, and sustainable growth by working closely with paper mills globally and promoting their products to untapped markets, while diligently fulfilling sourcing needs of existing customers.



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## Sappi North America CEO Mike Haws Named MaineBiz 2025 Business Leader of the Year

Sappi North America's President and CEO Mike Haws has been recognized as a MaineBiz 2025 Business Leader of the Year in the CEO of the Year category. The MaineBiz Business Leaders of the Year awards recognize executives across Maine's industries who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation and commitment to economic growth in the state.

The recognition highlights Haws' leadership in driving environmental innovation, workforce development and strategic investment, strengthening both Sappi's industry standing and its impact on Maine communities.

Under Haws' leadership, Sappi North America is in the final stage of completing the \$400-million-plus transformation of Paper Machine 2 at the company's Somerset Mill in Maine.

"Mike's leadership has been instrumental in Sappi's growth and transformation," said Patti Groh, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications, Sappi North America. "His vision has not only strengthened our business but deepened our roots in Maine, where our mills and our people play such an important role in the local economy and community fabric."



Beyond capital investment, Haws has championed employee engagement, safety and recruitment. Under his guidance, Sappi has maintained its EcoVadis Platinum rating for the fifth consecutive year, placing it in the top 1% of organizations globally for sustainability. He has also prioritized modern workforce strategies-including digital outreach and co-op programs-to ensure a strong pipeline of talent for the future of manufacturing.

"I'm honored to be named a MaineBiz 2025 Business Leader of the Year," Haws said. "This award reflects the hard work and dedication of our entire Sappi team, who continue to push boundaries in both innovation and environmental stewardship."

## Leader Paper Products Acquires Unique Envelope Corporation

Leader Paper Products recently acquired Unique Envelope Corporation, a Chicago-based custom envelope manufacturer with a strong reputation for quality and craftsmanship.

According to the company, the acquisition marks a strategic move to strengthen Leader's position in the envelope manufacturing industry and expand its reach into new market segments.

"Leader's acquisition of Unique Envelope strengthens our expertise while exposing a broader and more diverse customer base to Leader's expanded operational capabilities and exceptional customer service," said Steve Hipp, President and CEO of Leader Paper Products.

David Wilke, Chairman of Leader Paper Products, added, "Our acquisition of Unique Envelope is a celebration of shared values and a natural extension of our commitment to providing customers with top-tier products and responsive service. This move not only strengthens our operational capabilities, but it also honors the legacy of two families who have dedicated their lives to paper and envelope craftsmanship."

With facilities in Milwaukee, as well as distribution centers in Dallas, Texas, and Paulsboro, New Jersey, the acquisition underscores Leader's ongoing investment in the future of envelope manufacturing.

## Sonoco Names Paul Joachimczyk Chief Financial Officer

Sonoco Products Company has named Paul Joachimczyk as Chief Financial Officer, effective June 30. Joachimczyk previously was Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary of American Woodmark Corp.

"We are pleased to have Paul joining the Sonoco family. He is a highly accomplished financial executive with a proven track record of successfully leading

financial functions for large multinational publicly traded corporations," said Howard Coker, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sonoco.

Joachimczyk began his career with Ernst and Young LLP as a financial auditor. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is a Certified Public Accountant.



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## Domtar Unveils Sustainability Targets Through to 2030

Domtar recently released its new Strategy — a comprehensive plan that aligns the company's priorities with key sustainability objectives and stakeholder interests.

The Strategy includes performance metrics and benchmarks to track progress through 2030, with a focus on the company's woodlands and manufacturing operations across Canada and the United States. It will also serve as the framework for Domtar's first integrated Sustainability Report, covering all three business units (Paper & Packaging, Pulp & Tissue and Wood Products), which will be released later this year.

"We're proud to release this Strategy at a still relatively early stage in the operational integration of our three legacy companies under the new Domtar brand," said John D. Williams, Non-Executive Chairman of the Management Board of Domtar. "Domtar has a long history of excellence in sustainability. We said we would maintain the highest levels of environmental stewardship and sustainability performance, and today we're unveiling how we intend to deliver."

Building on the company's long-established commitment to sustainability and important socioeconomic impact in its operating communities, the Strategy is organized around three central pillars, with 12 strategic objectives and associated performance targets for 2026 and 2030:

- **Environmental Stewardship.** Domtar is committed to stewarding the planet's resources responsibly.
- **Our People and Communities.** Domtar supports our operating communities and employees.
- **Responsible Business.** Domtar upholds ethical and sustainable business practices and engages with our customers, business partners and stakeholders honestly and transparently.

"Our objectives are ambitious and reflect a rigorous assessment of the standards

Domtar's Sustainability Strategy includes performance metrics and benchmarks to track progress through 2030, with a focus on the company's woodlands and manufacturing operations across Canada and the United States.

and other guideposts that can help drive progress towards them," said Sabrina de Branco, Domtar's Global Chief Sustainability Officer. "We are also committing to the transparency stakeholders, rightsholders and partners will need to evaluate the outcomes firsthand."

The strategy development process included extensive engagement across Domtar's stakeholder universe, including outreach to customers, operating communities, business partners and non-governmental organizations. The unique perspectives of Indigenous peoples were also sought out. Over 500 representatives provided input via survey and more than 85 individuals participated in interviews. The Strategy is also aligned with the UN's widely endorsed Sustainable Development Goals. Any further evolution of the Strategy and its objectives will be driven in part by this important global call to action.

Strategy development was led by Domtar's Sustainability team and operational subject matter experts from across the company's business units with select external guidance. Implementation responsibilities, along with required investments and resource needs, have been thoroughly assessed to support successful execution.

Domtar is a leading, privately held manufacturer of diversified forest products, with a workforce of nearly 14,000 employees in more than 60 locations across North America. The company has an annual production capacity of 9.1 million metric tons of pulp, paper, packaging and tissue, and approximately 3 billion board feet of lumber and other wood products.

## Jussi Vanhanen Elected President and CEO of Metsä Group



The Board of Directors of Metsä Board elected from among themselves Jussi Vanhanen as President and CEO of Metsä Group and the new Chair of the Board of Directors of Metsä Board as of July 1.

Vanhanen replaces Ilkka Härmälä,

who served in those positions since 2018 and resigned on July 1.

Vanhanen has been a member of the Board of Directors of Metsä Board since March 2025, a member of the Board of Directors of Metsäliitto Cooperative from 2022 to 2025, and CEO of Metsäliitto Cooperative since May 1, 2025.



# Metsä Board Starts Installation Phase of Board Machine Modernization at Simpele Mill

Metsä Board in September started the installation phase of a major board machine modernization project at its Simpele mill in Southeast Finland as part of a EUR 60 million investment program. The investment will elevate the quality of the flagship folding boxboard grade “MetsäBoard Classic FBB” and accelerate the mill’s transition toward fossil-free production.

The renewed MetsäBoard Classic FBB will feature curtain coating technology, resulting in an improved print surface and enhanced visual quality. This innovation enables more consistent print results and sharper details, especially in demanding packaging applications.

Currently, 89% of the energy used in production at the Simpele mill is fossil-free. With the implementation of new technologies, this figure is expected to rise to 98% by the end of 2025, marking a significant milestone in Metsä Board’s journey toward fossil-free production and supporting customers’ increasingly ambitious sustainability goals.

The investment shutdown will last approximately five weeks and includes key installations such as a complete modernization of the coating section,

expansion of the coating kitchen, and commissioning of a new pallet packaging line.

“Preparations have progressed excellently throughout the summer. In the coming weeks, over 35 truckloads of equipment will arrive from our main suppliers, and more than 430 professionals will be working on-site,” said Toni Tahvanainen, VP Simpele mill.

The upgraded production line is scheduled to be operational in early October.

MetsäBoard Classic FBB is a benchmark product in high-volume food and healthcare segments, where packaging solutions demand high efficiency, reliability and consistency.

Esa Kaikkonen, CEO of Metsä Board, said, “Our goal is to offer brand owners an even more competitive packaging option — both in terms of quality and environmental performance. This is especially critical now, as sustainability targets and regulatory requirements are more stringent than ever.”

The Simpele mill has the capacity to produce 300,000 tonnes per year of high-quality lightweight folding boxboard for packaging end uses such as foodstuffs and frozen foods as well as medical products.

# Paper Industry Announces 2024 U.S. Paper Recycling Rates

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) announced its annual paper recycling rates, with 60-64% of paper and 69-74% of cardboard available for recovery being recycled in the United States in 2024.

Paper continues to be one of the highest recycled materials in America, supported by successful recycling systems throughout the country. In 2024 alone, 46 million tons of paper was recycled in the U.S., which equates to 125,000 tons of recycled paper being turned into new, essential products like cardboard boxes, paper packaging, and toilet paper every day.

**2024 Paper Recycling: By the Numbers**


- U.S. mills used 1.29 million more tons of recycled paper to make new products in 2024 - that’s 32.7 million tons compared to 31.3 million tons in 2023.
- Recycled paper share of all fiber used at U.S. mills has steadily increased in the last 20 years, from 36.6% in 2005 to 37.7% in 2015 to 44.4% in 2024.
- In 2024, there was a 13.5% increase in net containers entering the U.S. More goods with paper-based packaging

**Paper continues to be one of the highest recycled materials in America, supported by successful recycling systems throughout the country.**

were imported in 2024 than 2023, which increased the amount of paper available for recycling.

- While U.S. mills consumed more recycled paper in 2024 compared to 2023, the U.S. exported less recycled paper in 2024, primarily due to decreased demand from Asia.

“Paper recycling works, and our success is due in large part to the paper industry’s ownership stake in America’s recycling systems and the millions of people who recycle every day,” said AF&PA President and CEO Heidi Brock. “The paper industry has prioritized recycling for over 30 years, and we are committed to advancing this progress. AF&PA members are not just participants in the recycling system, we are helping build and improve it through voluntary industry investments that use more recycled paper, create jobs, and innovate in our U.S. manufacturing processes.”







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# PCA Buying Greif Containerboard Business for \$1.8 Billion

Packaging Corporation of America on July 1 announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to purchase the containerboard business of Greif, Inc. for \$1.8 billion in cash. The transaction is expected to close by the end of PCA's third quarter, subject to certain customary conditions and regulatory approvals.

The Greif containerboard business includes two containerboard mills with approximately 800,000 tons of production capacity and eight sheet feeder and corrugated plants located across the United States. The business generated approximately \$1.2 billion in sales and \$212 million of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) for the 12 months ended April 30, 2025.

Synergies are estimated to generate pre-tax benefits of approximately \$60 million and are expected to be fully realized within two years after closing. The synergies are projected to come from improved operational and production capabilities and efficiencies at the mills, increased integration, mill grade optimization and lower transportation costs. Approximately one half of the benefits are expected by the end of the first year with the remainder being received by the end of the second year.

PCA expects to finance the transaction with \$1.5 billion of new debt and cash on hand.

PCA CEO Mark Kowlzan said, "This acquisition furthers PCA's profitable growth strategy. The mills nicely complement PCA's system and will provide

Greif's containerboard business includes two containerboard mills with approximately 800,000 tons of production capacity and eight sheet feeder and corrugated plants located across the U.S.

containerboard to support PCA's continued corrugated products growth. We expect to achieve significant synergies with minimal capital investment through our operational expertise and will identify even more opportunities within the combined system for future high return investments to grow with our corrugated and sheet feeder customers."

PCA President Tom Hassfurth added, "We have a great deal of respect for Greif and are very pleased to have reached agreement to acquire this business. It is a very strong cultural fit with us in terms of safety, innovation, growth and dedication to serving the needs of customers. We will apply the sales, customer service and operational expertise of the combined organization to even better serve our corrugated and sheet feeder customers and achieve additional growth and profitability."

PCA is the third largest producer of containerboard products and a leading producer of uncoated freesheet paper in North America. PCA operates eight mills and 86 corrugated products plants and related facilities.

## International Paper May Build New Paper Packaging Plant in Salt Lake City

International Paper has started the strategic exploration of a new facility in Salt Lake City, Utah, for the production of paper-based packaging.

International Paper said the exploration of a prospective new packaging plant is part of its strategic growth plans to expand manufacturing capabilities in the United States. The company is eyeing Utah to increase its footprint in the region

**If pursued, the proposed new packaging plant will feature cutting-edge technology.**

and better serve customers by meeting the growing demand for high-quality, sustainable packaging.

"This exploration is part of Packaging Solutions North America's strategic growth initiative to enhance our regional

manufacturing footprint in the U.S. Salt Lake City would be a new market for IP and an opportunity to better serve existing customers in the region and grow strategically with new customers," said John Berry, Group Vice President and General Manager, Packaging Group West.

If pursued, this proposed new facility will feature cutting-edge technology and equipment to help enable Interna-

tional Paper's ability to deliver innovative and sustainable packaging solutions to a growing customer base in the western U.S.

Specific information, including capital investment, facility footprint and potential employment opportunities will be shared at the appropriate time as part of the ongoing evaluation process, IP noted.



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## Lindenmeyr Munroe Expands Distribution Operations into Detroit Market

Lindenmeyr Munroe recently expanded operations in the Michigan market with a Detroit-based distribution facility, which opened on Aug. 11.

The move to Detroit, serving Southeast Michigan, is supported by a fully stocked warehouse and an experienced team of sales and customer service representatives. Through Lindenmeyr Munroe's nightly shuttle system, customers have access to a comprehensive selection of products from facilities in Michigan as well as the entire Midwest, providing next-day delivery.

This is Lindenmeyr Munroe's third new facility to open since Fall 2024, with the others located in Atlanta, Georgia and Tampa, Florida, growing its network to a total of 30 warehouses and nine retail locations across the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Midwest, Texas and Oklahoma.

"Our strong partnerships with world-class suppliers allow us to provide a complete product offering across every category — paper, packaging, wide format and facility solutions — and we are thrilled to extend that offering to

The move to Detroit, serving Southeast Michigan, is supported by a fully stocked warehouse and an experienced team of sales and customer service representatives.

Detroit and the surrounding area," said Bill Meany, President of Lindenmeyr Munroe.

The new facility leverages Lindenmeyr Munroe's state-of-the-art eCommerce platform as the organization continues to make significant investments in online user experience and efficiency to better serve its customers.

"This expansion gives customers greater access to the products and solutions they need, and provides them with responsive, efficient service through our people, technology and local facility," Meany explained. "Our sales teams are extremely knowledgeable about all our products and look forward to connecting with the print, packaging and wide format community to support their ever-evolving business needs."

## Norske Skog Starts-up New Recycled Containerboard Machine at Golbey Mill

Norske Skog in May started-up its rebuilt recycled containerboard machine, paper machine 1 (PM1), at the company's Golbey mill in France.

At a total investment of about \$400 million, the machine project involved the conversion of PM1 from the production of newsprint to recycled containerboard. The machine has the capacity to produce 550,000 tonnes per year and is expected to reach 95% utilization within 2-3 years after startup.

The Golbey mill also has another paper machine, PM2, which has the capacity to produce 330,000 tons per year of newsprint.

The PM1 conversion project marks the single largest investment in Norske Skog's history and brings the Group's total containerboard capacity to 760,000 tonnes.

"The start-up of the world-class containerboard machine at Golbey is a significant milestone for Norske Skog and for everyone working at the Golbey mill," said Geir Drangslund, CEO of Norway-based Norske Skog. "Although the project has been challenging, we want to thank everyone involved and look forward to

At a total investment of about \$400 million, the paper machine project involved the conversion of PM1 from the production of newsprint to recycled containerboard.

delivering volumes to our customers."

Norske Skog said that deliveries of containerboard to customers started during the second quarter of this year. Capacity utilization is expected to reach 50-60% towards the end of 2025 and full utilization of 95% during the first half of 2027. The production will be fully based on recycled paper.

Norske Skog pointed out that the Golbey mill will contribute to the region's sustainable development by sorting and recycling more than one million tonnes of wastepaper sourced from regions around the mill.

In addition, the Golbey mill will supply Green Valley Energie with waste to produce green and cost-efficient energy for external sale and to Golbey's production processes.



# CONGRATULATIONS PAUL BIESIADECKI

## 2025 STANLEY O. STYLES AWARD WINNER

We are proud to extend our heartfelt congratulations to **Paul Biesiadecki**, Vice President - Global Release Liners, Paper & Packaging, on being named the recipient of the **2025 STANLEY O. STYLES AWARD!**

Paul's visionary leadership has left an indelible mark on our industry. His career is a testament to the power of thoughtful strategy, relentless innovation, and a deep passion for mentoring others. From pioneering digital growth to building lasting relationships with customers across the U.S. and around the world, **Paul exemplifies what it means to lead with both purpose and heart.**

Today, Paul continues to drive our Neenah brands forward as a steadfast leader within the Mativ organization—bringing unwavering dedication to our industry and a **genuine commitment to our people every single day.**

THANK YOU, PAUL, FOR ALL YOU DO!





# NPTA Recognizes Paul Biesiadecki of Mativ with 2025 Stanley O. Styles Industry Excellence Award

The Stanley O. Styles award will be presented during the luncheon on Tuesday.



NPTA announced that Paul Biesiadecki, Vice President, Sales, Paper and Packaging at Mativ, has been selected as the 2025 Stanley O. Styles Industry Excellence Award recipient.

The Stanley O. Styles (SOS) Industry Excellence Award is NPTA’s highest honor, recognizing a leader whose career reflects innovation, dedication, and lasting impact on the printing paper industry. With decades of experience and a record of strategic innovation, Paul has helped shape the industry while mentoring others and giving back to his community. His work reflects the leadership, service, and vision this award represents.

Paul’s career in the paper and packaging industry spans decades of impactful leadership, strategic innovation, and meaningful mentorship. From his early days at Mohawk Fine Papers to his current role at Mativ, Biesiadecki has consistently advanced the industry through forward-thinking strategies, deep customer relationships, and a strong commitment to excellence.

At Mohawk, Paul held pivotal roles including Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, where he led the digital business segment and drove growth across premium papers and specialty substrates.

NPTA stated, “What sets Paul apart is not just his business acumen, but also his dedication to uplifting others and giving back. Whether coaching talent in the workplace or leading volunteer teams to improve living conditions in rural Honduras, Paul embodies the spirit of servant leadership that this award celebrates.

“A longtime industry advocate and active participant in groups like the PRINTING United Alliance Networking Group, Paul continues to elevate our field through insight, collaboration, and purpose-driven work,” NPTA concluded.

Please join friends and colleagues in congratulating Paul during the luncheon on Tuesday for his outstanding contributions to the paper and packaging community.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Paul Biesiadecki

2025 Recipient of the Stanley O. Styles Award

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Congratulations, Paul

Wishing you continued success as you mark this outstanding achievement.

From your friends at,

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Paul Biesiadecki

Vice President, Sales, Paper and Packaging at Mativ

on receiving the

2025 Stanley O. Styles Industry Excellence Award

NPTA’s highest honor.

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Congratulations, Paul Biesiadecki!

2025 Stanley O. Styles Industry Excellence Award

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## ***Congratulations, Paul Biesiadecki!***

*Vice President, Sales,  
Paper and Packaging,  
Mativ*

**2025 Stanley O. Styles Industry  
Excellence Award Recipient**

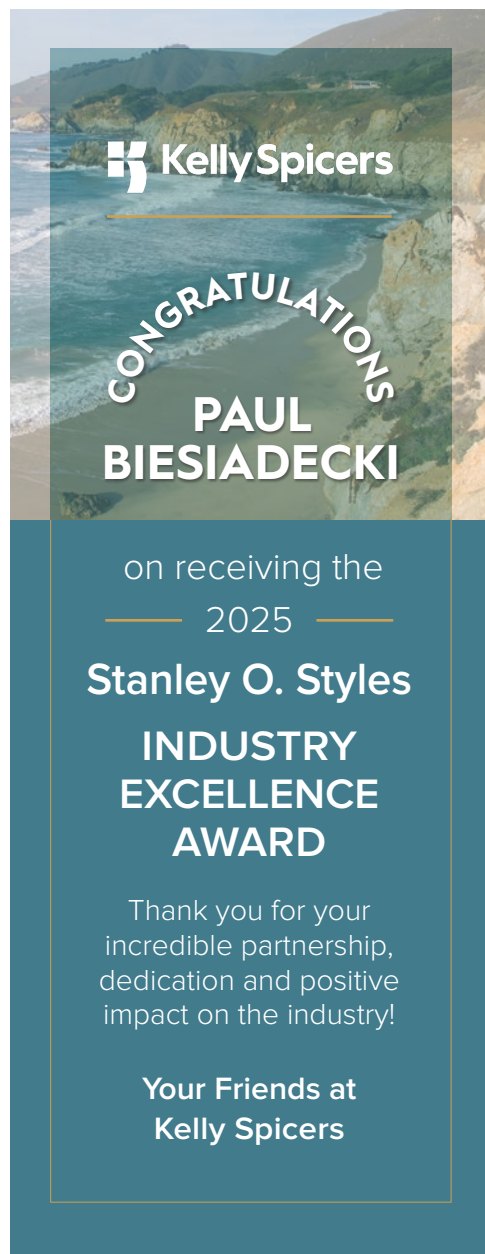
*We are delighted to celebrate Paul on  
this well deserved award for his  
outstanding leadership, vision and  
contributions to the paper industry.*

*Congratulations from all of us  
at the American Forest & Paper  
Association and the National Paper  
Trade Association.*



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Vice President of Sales,  
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congratulates Paul on this well deserved recognition. **Paul's contributions to the industry have been significant**, and it is fitting that he take a rightful place among the other Stanley O. Styles Award winners who collectively have **helped transform our industry!**



# Suzano and Kimberly-Clark Announce \$3.4 Billion JV Partnership

Suzano and Kimberly-Clark on June 5 announced the creation of a US\$3.4 billion joint venture focused on the manufacture, marketing and distribution of consumer and professional tissue products, such as toilet paper, napkins, paper towels and facial tissues in over 70 countries.

Suzano will acquire a 51 percent interest in the new entity, with Kimberly-Clark holding a 49 percent interest.

Suzano will pay Kimberly-Clark US \$1.734 billion in cash for its 51 percent stake at the closing of the transaction, subject to certain customary post-closing purchase price adjustments.

Closing of the transaction is contingent on, among other things, approval by regulatory and other governmental

authorities, fulfillment of customary conditions precedent for transactions of this nature, and completion by Kimberly-Clark of a corporate reorganization of its Consumer Tissue and Professional business unit.

The transaction is expected to close in mid-2026 and involves approximately 9,000 employees.

The new business will be a company incorporated in the Netherlands and will include 22 manufacturing facilities located in 14 countries across Europe, Asia, including Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South America, Central America, Africa, and Oceania. Collectively, these facilities have an installed capacity to produce approximately 1 million tonnes

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of tissue a year. The assets to be included in the new joint venture generated net sales in 2024 of approximately US \$3.3 billion.

Kimberly-Clark will retain its consumer tissue and professional businesses in the United States and its interests in existing joint ventures in Mexico, South Korea and Bahrain, among other countries.

More than 40 regional brands of Kimberly-Clark's International Family

Care and Professional portfolio will be transferred into the joint venture, that will also enter into a long-term license with the new company for use of its global brands, including Kleenex, Scott, Cottonelle, WypAll, Viva, and Kimberly-Clark Professional.

At closing of the transaction, Suzano and Kimberly-Clark will enter into a joint venture agreement establishing certain rights and obligations related to the management, control, operation, shareholding, and other matters concerning the joint venture. It will have a Board of Directors with five members, three of whom will be appointed by Suzano and two of whom will be appointed by Kimberly-Clark.

# Core Paper's President Gene Cohen Begins 55th Year in the Paper Industry

Core Paper is proud to announce that 2025 marks the 55th year company president Gene Cohen has worked in the paper industry.

However, Cohen says it's not so much about personal experiences of years past, but the recent developments that have taken place at Core Paper in in terms of

growth and business strategy.

"Core's growth has been beyond expectations," Cohen said. "And not only domestically but worldwide. We have overseas reps, warehousing coast to coast in the U.S., and an ever-changing platform of purchasing paper from various outlets, especially mills. It's been amazing.

"Core's growth has been beyond expectations."

—Gene Cohen, President, Core Paper.

"Over the past few years, we've modified how and who we market to," Cohen added.

Core Paper specializes in buying excess

and/or obsolete paper and paperboard inventory in all grades of printing or industrial grades in rolls and sheets. The Pennsylvania-based company works with paper mills, publishers, printers, newspapers and a number of other outlets. To learn more, visit: [www.corepaper.com](http://www.corepaper.com).





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# Georgia-Pacific Opens More Opportunities for Paper Cup Recycling

Georgia-Pacific’s Savannah River mill in Rincon, Georgia, recently began accepting polyethylene (PE)-coated paper cups in its mixed paper stock for recycling.

It’s the third Georgia-Pacific facility to begin accepting PE-coated cups, joining recycled paper mills in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Muskogee, Oklahoma. These facilities enable the reuse of fibers from PE-coated cups and other mixed paper stock to produce Georgia-Pacific products such as tissues, towels and napkins.

Georgia-Pacific has partnered closely with the Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI) and the NextGen Consortium, an industry collaboration managed by Closed Loop Partners’ Center for the Circular Economy, to promote and expand the acceptance of PE-coated cups for recycling.

“As single-use paper cups have grown in popularity in recent years so, too, has paper cup waste,” said John Mulcahy, vice president of stewardship for Georgia-Pacific, which manufactures the Dixie brand of paper cups. “As a leading manufacturer of paper foodservice products,

we continually look for ways to consume fewer resources as part of our longer-term strategy to identify solutions that benefit society. Accepting mixed paper bales containing PE-coated cups at our mills is a significant step in this direction.”

PE coatings, along with any remaining liquid and food left behind from use, have historically left single-use paper cups out of the recovery and recycling process. However, Georgia-Pacific has proven through its extensive re-pulping trials that these mills can effectively recapture valuable cup fiber from paper cups while screening out PE coatings and then reuse the fiber to make bath tissue, napkins and paper towels.

Kate Daly, managing partner and head of the Center for the Circular Economy at Closed Loop Partners, said Georgia-Pacific’s repulping capability will benefit the foodservice industry and further advance the industry’s environmental stewardship.

“We are excited see Georgia-Pacific continue to accelerate paper cup recycling through its acceptance of cups in mixed paper bales at the Savannah River mill,”

Georgia-Pacific’s Savannah River mill in Rincon, Georgia, recently began accepting polyethylene (PE)-coated paper cups in its mixed paper stock for recycling.

Daly said. “There has been tremendous momentum in paper cup recycling over the last several years. This announcement marks another critical step forward for the industry, and we hope even more mills will follow this lead.”

Georgia-Pacific is also collaborating with the NextGen Consortium to trial at its mills next-generation paper cups that have replaced the PE-coating with more bio-based materials that are recyclable and/or compostable.

And with its Rincon, Green Bay and Muskogee mills now engaged, Georgia-Pacific is also working with FPI to expand and accelerate single-use PE-coated paper cup acceptance in curbside recycling programs to increase the number of households that can recycle the paper cups.

# Streco Fibres Welcomes Porter Hardy as Chief Operating Officer

Streco Fibres announced that Porter Hardy has joined the company in the newly created position of Chief Operating Officer. Hardy, along with company president John Strelitz and Streco’s leadership team, will chart the course for future growth and strengthen operational excellence across the organization. Hardy brings a diverse and accomplished background to Streco. With eight years of experience as an attorney, followed by twelve years as the founder and CEO of his own company, Hardy brings with him a wide range of financial, legal, operational, and general management experience.

“I am excited to welcome Porter to the Streco team,” said Strelitz. “The creation of the COO role is just one example of Streco’s commitment to constant improvement and dedication to delivering the best possible experience for our suppliers and customers.”

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Growth, with a future





# Sylvamo to Invest \$145 Million in South Carolina Paper Mill and Sheeting Plant

Sylvamo has decided to make major investments at its two South Carolina facilities. The company plans to invest approximately \$145 million in high-return projects to reduce costs and significantly enhance the capabilities at its mill in Eastover, South Carolina.

Sylvamo will invest approximately \$100 million to speed up one of its paper machines by the end of 2026, modernizing it to the same world-class level as the mill's other machine. The investment will enable the machine to produce approximately 60,000 additional short tons of uncoated freesheet annually.

The company will also invest roughly \$45 million for a new replacement sheeter at its Sumter, South Carolina, sheeting plant. The state-of-the-art cutsheet sheeter, which converts large rolls of paper from the mill into sheets, will lower costs and add flexibility to service customers when it's online by late 2026.

"We believe investing in our low-cost assets will strengthen our competitive advantage. Eastover is one of the most competitive paper mills in the world, and it will continue to be an important part of our story for years to come," said Jean-Michel Ribieras, Chairman and CEO.

Sylvamo is also entering a 20-year partnership to outsource its Eastover woodyard operations. Modernization will enable more efficient, reliable, cost-effective wood processing and additional flexibility. It will also allow the company to avoid approximately \$75 million in capital spending over the next five years.

related jobs locally. The mill is located 30 miles east of Columbia, South Carolina, in Richland County on the Wateree River, and 20 minutes from Congaree National Park.

### Sumter Sheeting Plant

Eastover's sheeting operation is located approximately 30 miles from the mill in Sumter, South Carolina, and employs more than 100 people.

The facilities produce Hammermill®, HP Home & Office and Williamsburg printer paper brands, as well as papers that are converted into envelopes, folders, forms and notepads.

### Eastover Mill

Sylvamo's fully integrated Eastover mill is one of the most technologically advanced paper mills in the world and the largest, lowest cost producer of uncoated freesheet in North America. The mill produces over 90% of its energy in-house. It employs more than 800 people and is responsible for creating more than 5,000

# Ahlstrom has Acquired Pixelle's Stevens Point Paper Mill

Ahlstrom at the end of May acquired Pixelle Specialty Solutions' paper mill in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The Stevens Point mill, with two paper machines, has the capacity to produce about 210,000 tons per year of specialty paper, such as coated flexible packaging papers, release liner base, thermal papers, and other specialty labels.

The acquisition marks a major milestone in Ahlstrom's growth transformation.

"Stevens Point's superior technical expertise and top-class team are an exciting addition to Ahlstrom's technology portfolio and global manufacturing network," said Konraad Dullaert, Executive Vice President, Food & Consumer Packaging and Chief Innovation Officer, Ahlstrom. "This acquisition expands our market coverage and positions us to respond to the evolving needs of our customers in North America and beyond. We are pleased to welcome our new colleagues and look forward to working together to enhance our innovative, sustainable offerings."

The Stevens Point mill, with two paper machines, has the capacity to produce about 210,000 tons per year of specialty paper.

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## Hood Container Announces \$118.9 Million Modernization Project at St. Francisville Paper Mill

Hood Container will invest \$118.9 million to modernize its paper mill in West Feliciana Parish in St. Francisville, Louisiana, allowing the company to significantly boost production capacity and quality to meet evolving market demands.

The company is expected to retain 295 current positions with an estimated salary more than 30% above the parish average. Louisiana Economic Development estimates the project will result in an additional 819 indirect new jobs.

"Investments like Hood Container's strengthen both our manufacturing base and our timber economy, positioning us to win with two industries that have deep roots in Louisiana," said Secretary Susan B. Bourgeois on behalf of Louisiana Economic Development.

The project will center around upgrading Hood Container's primary paper machine, which will increase production capacity by 80,000 tons per year. With the manufacturing of more, higher-quality products, the company anticipates buying an additional 204,000 tons of wood chips and 22,000 tons of recycled boxes annually.

The investment will also include significant improvements to the facility's recovery boiler, which is essential in powering the mill.

Wayne Morgan, Senior Vice President

at Hood Container, stated, "Hood Container is proud to continue growing our containerboard business with a new investment to our St. Francisville mill. The State of Louisiana has been a valued partner since we acquired the facility in 2015, and we look forward to building on that strong relationship in the years ahead."

The St. Francisville mill was first opened in the late 1950s by Crown Zellerbach

The project will center around upgrading Hood Container's primary paper machine, which will increase production capacity by 80,000 tons per year.

and later operated under Tembec. Since taking ownership in 2015, Hood Container has invested more than \$160 million in the facility.

The first phase of the upgrade will occur during the third quarter of 2026,

and the remaining equipment and additions will be fully installed during the May 2027 annual mill outage.

To secure the project, the State of Louisiana offered the company a competitive incentive package that includes an \$800,000 Modernization Tax Credit to be paid out over a five-year period. Hood Container also is expected to utilize the state's Industrial Tax Exemption Program.

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# Billerud Advances Investments in Michigan Mills; Launching New Paperboard Product Lines

Billerud is advancing steadily on its investments in its Escanaba and Quinnesec mills in Michigan. This strategic initiative is the foundation of the company's "Way Forward" strategy to enhance operational flexibility, expand product offerings, and support long-term economic and sustainability goals in North America.

"In December 2024, we announced major capital investments in our Escanaba and Quinnesec mills," said Doug Schwartz, President of Billerud North America. "These investments are vital to optimizing our paper machine capabilities, expanding into packaging materials, and continuing to deliver market-leading graphic papers, specialty label papers, and market pulp."

A major component of this investment is the complete rebuild and modernization of the woodyard at the Escanaba Mill.

The project includes the installation of advanced rotary debarking technology and upgraded wood and bark handling systems. Construction of a new Motor Control Center (MCC) is underway and new equipment to support the rebuild is arriving daily.

## New Packaging Products Ready for Market

Billerud is also formally launching new paperboard product lines — Tribute®, Tribute® Base, and Voyager™ Pts. SB.

Tribute is a fully bleached coated white kraft liner and Tribute Base is a lightly coated white kraft liner — high-quality corrugated packaging products for applications such as food, consumer electronics, apparel boxes and point-of-purchase displays.

Voyager Pts. SB is a single-ply solid

**Billerud is advancing steadily on its investments in its Escanaba and Quinnesec mills in Michigan.**

bleached sulfate (SBS) cartonboard line — the first of three versions designed or various packaging needs, including folding cartons and food service board applications.

"We are proud of the momentum we have built and the tangible progress taking shape across our operations," Schwartz added. "These investments represent more than just upgrades. They reflect our commitment to innovation, sustainability, and the long-term success of our people and our community. We look to the future with optimism and a strong sense of strategic direction."

# The Legacy Paper Group Announces Plans to Restart PM8 at Port Huron Mill

The Legacy Paper Group, a subsidiary of BMI Group US, recently announced plans to restart Paper Machine #8 (PM8) at its Port Huron paper mill in Michigan, bringing 30,000 tons of annual production capacity back online after a four-year shutdown.

**PM8 specializes in producing high-quality, ultra-lightweight papers for food service applications.**

The company did not disclose an approximate timeline for the restart.

"The fundamentals driving specialty paper demand have never been stronger," said Mark Bessette, Managing Director of The Legacy Paper Group. "Consumer behavior shifts accelerated by the pandemic, combined with intensifying focus on packaging sustainability, have created a significant supply-demand imbalance that PM8 is uniquely positioned to address."

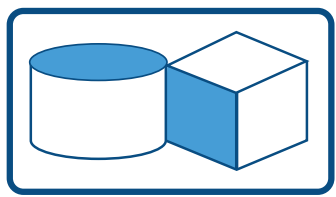
The mill has operated continuously since 1888 under various owners including Port Huron Sulphite and Paper Co., Port Huron Paper, Pentair, EB Eddy Paper, and Domtar Specialty Papers. PM8 itself specializes in producing high-quality, ultra-lightweight papers for quick-serve restaurant packaging, candy wrappers, medical table covers, tissue overwraps, and other sustainable applications.

## Market Dynamics Drive Restart Decision

According to Bessette, the COVID-19 pandemic permanently altered consumer dining habits, with food delivery and takeout services experiencing sustained growth through platforms like Uber Eats, DoorDash, and Grubhub. This shift created enduring demand for functional, compliant packaging materials that meet the standards of leading global food brands.

"Our customers are demanding sustainable packaging solutions that don't compromise on performance," Bessette said. "The specialty grades we'll produce on PM8 deliver both environmental benefits and the functional properties required for demanding food service applications."

The company noted that the restart of PM8 represents a strategic investment in the expanding lightweight food-grade paper sector. The facility's geographic location provides cost-effective access to key markets throughout the Midwest and Northeast, while established supply chains and experienced workforce enable rapid production ramp-up.



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## Kruger Proposes \$700 Million in Modernization Projects Focused on Corner Brook Pulp and Paper

Kruger has proposed a comprehensive diversification strategy to secure future operations of Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited contingent on timely endorsement by key industry partners.

The Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Mill, located in Newfoundland, Canada, produces newsprint from thermomechanical pulp. The mill has two hydroelectric plants and a biomass cogeneration plant as well as a woodlands department.

Kruger is proposing to invest up to \$700 million to transform the mill into a modernized and sustainable manufacturing complex that will become one of the most competitive in the industry.

In a press release, Kruger said, "This project will promote the expansion of the provincial sawmill industry, provide energy and power capacity for NL Hydro, while sustaining jobs for Corner Brook Pulp and Paper operations and the provincial forestry sector."

Under the plan, Kruger proposes to invest up to \$700 million in a highly innovative and upgraded manufacturing complex. The project will modernize the paper manufacturing operations, add a new pulp storage facility, upgrade site infrastructure, implement chip handling and receiving equipment, and install a

biomass unloading and drying system for the cogeneration facility. The project also includes investments at the Deer Lake and Watsons Pond hydro facilities to maximize their capacity.

Lastly, the investment includes the construction of a private wind farm to support the operation of the modernized mill site.

**Kruger is proposing to invest up to \$700 million to transform the Corner Brook Pulp and Paper mill into a modernized and sustainable manufacturing complex.**

"Despite persistent negative market conditions, Kruger recognizes the long-term potential of the Corner Brook site and is therefore committed to withstand these ongoing challenges in the short term. Given the context of market headwinds, to move ahead with this landmark project, alignment is required without delay with all stakeholders (including Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, NL Hydro, First Nations, provincial sawmill partners, local municipalities, employees, and union leadership)," Kruger stated.

Kruger is in discussions with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador regarding this proposed diversification plan.



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# CMPC Celebrates Official Launch of Forest Products Business Unit in Atlanta

With the presence of key clients, CMPC in May celebrated the official launch of CMPC Forest Products in Atlanta, Georgia.

According to the Chilean producer of pulp, paper, tissue, and other paper products, the Atlanta office marks a new step in its internationalization strategy and closer relationship with the

North American market.

“This step allows us to be closer to our customers in the United States and respond more quickly to their needs, offering first-class service right down to the last mile,” said Francisco Ruiz-Tagle, general manager of CMPC.

The event brought together nearly 20 clients from the pulp, boxboard, sack

kraft, and wood businesses, who participated in various meeting opportunities organized by the team. The event also featured an opportunity to unveil the newly remodeled offices.

CMPC Forest Products, operating since January 1, 2024, is the result of a joint venture with International Forest Products (IFP) and has a team of 24 people who manage sales and logistics services for CMPC’s businesses.

Dan Kraft, President and CEO of IFP, commented, “We are proud to continue building a strong relationship with CMPC, which will allow us to offer comprehensive solutions to clients in the United States.”

## Georgia-Pacific President and CEO, Christian Fischer, to Retire at the End of October

Georgia-Pacific announced that its president and CEO, Christian Fischer, is retiring from the company at the end of October. Fischer joined Georgia-Pacific in 1989 and has held numerous leadership roles. He was named President and CEO in 2017.

Mark Luetters, currently executive vice president of Koch, Inc., with responsibility overseeing several Koch companies, including Georgia-Pacific, will continue in that role while serving as Georgia-Pacific’s President and CEO.

Luetters joined Koch in 1989 and Georgia-Pacific in 2006 and, among other roles, was executive vice president of Georgia-Pacific building products for nine years prior to returning to a role in another Koch company in 2018.

# ProAmpac Partners with Western Michigan University to Advance Fiber Packaging Innovation

ProAmpac has partnered with Western Michigan University (WMU), a top North American institution in fiber technologies and recycling, to advance the development of fiber-based sustainable packaging solutions.

The partnership will bolster ProAmpac’s “Fiberization of Packaging®” strategy, which aims to deliver curbside recyclable and compostable alternatives to traditional packaging.

“The partnership with Western Michigan University supports ProAmpac’s material science team on developing innovative fiber-based technologies,” said Hesam Tabatabaei, senior vice president of global product development and innovation at ProAmpac. “WMU’s expertise in fiber manufacturing and broad range of capabilities will help accelerate our ability to deliver fiber-based packaging that meets growing market demand for curbside recyclable and compostable solutions. It also enables us to proactively address Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations with scalable, science-based innovation.”

The partnership will bolster ProAmpac’s “Fiberization of Packaging” strategy, which aims to deliver curbside recyclable and compostable alternatives to traditional packaging.

ProAmpac is integrating this new university collaboration into its growing global network of academic partners focused on material and food science. These alliances enhance the company’s research capabilities and directly support ProAmpac’s ProActive Sustainability® and ProActive Intelligence® platforms, which foster innovation across all product categories and reinforce its commitment to a circular economy.

“We’re excited to partner with ProAmpac to advance fiber-based packaging innovation,” said Dr. Kecheng Li, chair, TAPPI fellow, of WMU. “By combining our fiber expertise and barrier coating with ProAmpac’s material science leadership and global commercial scale, we can accelerate the development of more sustainable and recyclable packaging solutions.”



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## Green Bay Packaging Breaks Ground On \$1 Billion Paper Mill Project in Morrilton

Green Bay Packaging is expanding its existing Arkansas Kraft Paper Mill complex in Morrilton, Arkansas, with an investment of more than \$1 billion. This expansion represents the largest capital investment project in the history of Central Arkansas.

"We are excited to officially break ground on Project PowerPack," said Matt Szymanski, Vice President of Mill Operations at Green Bay Packaging. This project reflects our ongoing commitment to quality and sustainability, as well as our dedication to our employees, customers, and the communities in which we live and work. We are truly excited for the future."

The multi-year project will significantly enhance the infrastructure of the mill and underscore the company's commitment to sustainable practices and operational efficiency. The project also includes the acquisition of approximately 300 acres of land for future investments and expansion, positioning the mill for the long-term. The company's strategic investment in the Arkansas Kraft facility could more than double the mill's current production capacity.

Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, stated, "Thank you, Green Bay Packaging, for the important service you have provided for over 50 years in Arkansas, the hundreds of jobs you provide for our state, and for your over \$1 billion investment — representing the largest capital investment project in Central Arkansas' history."

### Billerud Strategically Positioned in the U.S.

Billerud, a global leader in the manufacture of paper and packaging materials, is passionately committed to sustainability, quality and customer value. The company serves customers in more than 100 countries through nine production units in Sweden, the U.S. and Finland, with about 5,800 employees in 19 countries.

In the U.S., Billerud operates out of a regional head office in Miamisburg, Ohio, and has two mills in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, along with a converting facility in Wisconsin. The company is a leading supplier of high-quality graphic and label papers, packaging materials, and market pulp.

With its U.S. mills strategically located near large industry printers and converters, Billerud provides expert customer support, on-site technical service and insightful solutions that bring added efficiency and productivity to its customers.

Green Bay Packaging plans to create 35 new jobs as part of the expansion. Currently, Green Bay Packaging has more than 620 employees in Conway County.

As part of a multiyear expansion, Green Bay Packaging will be enhancing the Morrilton facility's infrastructure and replacing key process components, including the recovery boiler and biomass boiler infrastructure. The company will also install an electric turbine generator to reduce Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions.

The company has an established presence in Arkansas, operating multiple facilities in the Central Arkansas region. In addition to its Arkansas Kraft Division Campus, Green Bay Packaging operates two facilities in Plumerville, a facility in Conway, and another facility in Morrilton.

In 2024, six counties (Conway, Pope, Faulkner, Johnson, Saline, White) and one city (Morrilton) partnered with the Arkansas Department of Transportation to relocate Highway 113 enabling the project to move forward.

Green Bay Packaging will be hiring for multiple positions, including operators, mechanics, electricians, and engineers.

Established in 1933, Green Bay Packaging Inc. is a family-owned, vertically integrated manufacturing company consisting of corrugated shipping container plants, a folding carton facility, recycled and virgin containerboard mills, pressure-sensitive label roll-stock plants, timberlands, a paper slitting operation, specialty converting operations, and a sawmill facility.

## Suzano to Reduce Production of Market Pulp by 3.5% Over the Next 12 Months

Suzano in August announced that its market pulp production volume over the next 12 (twelve) months of the operational cycle — from this date forward — will be lower by approximately 3.5% when compared to its nominal capacity of market pulp production per year.

According to Suzano, the company

produces about 13.4 million tons of market pulp per year.

Suzano said the decision to reduce its production of market pulp is based on the assessment that such production volume would not generate adequate returns for the company, given a more challenging pulp market environment.

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# International Paper Breaks Ground for Its New Box Plant in Waterloo, Iowa

International Paper in May held a groundbreaking ceremony for its green-field state-of-the-art packaging box plant in Waterloo, Iowa.

According to the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), IP plans to construct a 900,000-square-foot corrugated products manufacturing facility.

“The project represents a \$260 million capital investment and is expected to create 90 jobs incented at a qualifying wage of at least \$23.01 per hour,” IEDA said in a written statement.

According to IP, the new facility will primarily focus on serving the protein segment, providing tailored packaging solutions and meeting the growing demand for high-quality, sustainable packaging.

“We are thrilled to break ground and invest in our company and the city of Waterloo,” said John Berry, Group Vice President, International Paper. “This facility represents our dedication to growing in markets where we want to compete, advancing our capabilities and ensuring our customers receive quality and reliable products. We look forward to our continued future in Waterloo and are very grateful to everyone who has made today possible.”

The Waterloo box plant will feature cutting-edge technology and equipment, enabling International Paper to deliver innovative and sustainable packaging solutions. The plant’s design incorporates the latest safety practices and industry technology.

The new facility is currently scheduled to begin operations in the fourth quarter of 2026 and create an estimated 65 new jobs to the current facility with a total of 190 team members.

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## Sappi North America Ramping-Up Production on Rebuilt PM 2 at Somerset Mill in Maine

Sappi North America at the end of July announced that it is delivering commercial product to customers following the completion of Project Elevate, the \$500 million conversion and expansion of Paper Machine No. 2 (PM2) at its Somerset Mill in Maine.

Project Elevate involved the conversion of PM2 — formerly a coated freesheet machine — to the production of solid bleached sulfate board (SBS). PM2 now has the capacity to produce around 520,000 tons per year (approximately 470,000 metric tons) of SBS.

Qualification processes are being completed with a number of customers, and production will ramp up to full volumes through 2026.

The investment doubles PM2’s production capacity and strengthens Sappi’s position as a leader in sustainable packaging by transforming Somerset into one of the most advanced production sites for high-performance SBS (solid bleached sulfate) paperboard.

Project Elevate involved the conversion of PM2 — formerly a coated freesheet machine — to the production of solid bleached sulfate board (SBS).

“This is a pivotal moment for Sappi North America,” said Mike Haws, President and CEO. “With PM2, we have delivered the largest rebuild in our company’s history, doubling the machine’s capacity and positioning Somerset as a leader in sustainably manufactured paperboard.

“The true success of this project lies in our people. Their precision, focus, and unwavering commitment to safety enabled us to complete a complex transformation, all while keeping the mill fully operational. This investment goes beyond machinery; it’s about laying the foundation for long-term innovation, sustainable growth, and lasting impact,” Haws added.

As production continues to ramp up, this strategic investment expands Sappi’s ability to produce a full range of high-performance SBS paperboard grades, including folding carton, food service board, and cups. This positions Sappi North America as a full-service SBS provider, enhancing its ability to support both domestic and global packaging customers.

Kirk Ross, VP of Manufacturing, noted, “Product from the new machine is now commercially available, delivering the same high standards of quality and performance our customers expect, while expanding our range of applications. With increased capacity and a focus on improved service, we’re able to meet growing demand with greater speed, consistency, and responsiveness.”

Sappi North America, along with paper machinery supplier Valmet, began the conversion of PM2 in 2022 following the successful rebuild of PM1 in 2018.

### THE PULSE

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